GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

High Court of Andhra Pradesh – The Andhra Pradesh Family Court (Empanelment of Counsellors) Rules, 2025 – Notification - Orders – Issued.

LAW (L, LA&J-HOME-COURTS-A) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 152 **Dated: 07-11-2025**

Read the following:-

1. The Family Courts Act, 1984 (Act No.66 of 1984).
2. From the Registrar (Judicial), High Court of Andhra Pradesh, ROC.No.1598/SO/2016, dated.10.07.2025 & 19.08.2025.

-:0:-

O R D E R:

In the reference second read above, the Registrar (Judicial), High Court of Andhra Pradesh has informed that the High Court has proposed and approved the draft Rules regarding appointment, remuneration, tenure and qualification of the Counsellors to be appointed for the Family Courts in the State. While forwarding the draft Rules, the Registrar (Judicial), High Court of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Government to take further necessary steps as per section 6 of the Family Courts Act, 1984.

2. Government after careful examination of the matter, hereby issue the Andhra Pradesh Family Court (Empanelment of Counsellors) Rules, 2025, regarding appointment, remuneration, tenure and qualification of the Counsellors to be appointed for the Family Courts in the State.

3. Accordingly, the following notification will be published in the extraordinary gazette:-

NOTIFICATION

In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 6 (2) and Section 23 (2)(b) of the Family Courts Act, 1984, the Government of Andhra Pradesh hereby makes the following Rules regarding Empanelment, terms &conditions, remuneration of the family court counsellors.

(Contd...P.2)

The counsellors in Family Courts play complimentary role in helping the family disputes resolved. The Counsellors focus on facilitating communication and understanding between the parties. Their goal is helping the couples to reach an amicable agreement that works for everyone involved especially the children, limit the role of an Advocate and expand the involvement of counsellors.

RULES

1. (i) These Rules may be called "the Andhra Pradesh Family Court (Empanelment of counsellors) Rules, 2025".

(ii) They shall come into force with effect from the date of publication in the Official Gazette of Andhra Pradesh.

2. Definitions:

(i) "ACT" means the Family Courts Act, 1984 (Act No.66 of 1984)

(ii) "SECTION" means Section of the Act.

(iii) All the words and expressions not defined in these Rules shall have the same meanings as assigned to them in the Act.

3.Empanelment and payment of Honorarium:

Empanelment, payment of Honorarium and other terms and conditions of counsellors are made as contemplated under Section 6 of the Family Courts Act, 1984.

4. Qualification for Counsellor –

(1) A candidate who has been a Judicial Officer,

or

(2) Any person having a degree of a recognized university, preferably with social science or psychology as one of the subjects, and minimum experience of two (2) years in social work, child psychiatry or family counselling shall be eligible for Empanelment as a counsellor.

Provided further that preference may be given to women having the requisite qualification:-

(Contd...P.3)

Provided also that a person below the age of 35 years and above the age of 65 years shall not be eligible.

5. Number of Counsellors –

The number of counsellors in each counselling centre may be determined by the Government in consultation with the High Court, from time to time. However, not less than two counsellors be appointed for each Family Court.

6. Counselling Centre: –

(i) A family Court counselling centre shall be attached to the Family court and it shall be known as Family Court Counselling Centre.

(ii) The Counselling Centre shall ordinarily be located in the Family Court Premises unless otherwise directed at such other place by the High Court.

7. Empanelment of Counsellors: -

(1) As and when required the Family Court Judge, but where there are more than one Family Court, the Principal Family Court Judge shall prepare a panel at the ratio of 1:3 for empanelment of counsellors to the Family Courts and submit the same to the High Court for empanelment.

(2) The empanelled list as mentioned under sub Rule-1, so approved, shall be valid for ***three (3) years***.

8. Duty of counsellor: -

(1) The association of such persons with the Family Court shall be for the purpose of promoting conciliation in securing speedy settlement of disputes relating to marriage and family affairs and matters connected therewith.

(2) The counsellors associated with the Family Court shall not plead for a party in the case or proceedings in which he/she has been appointed as counsellor.

(Contd...P.4)

9. De-empanelment of Counsellors: - The empanelled Counsellor may be de-empanelled by the High Court at any time before the expiry of his or her term on the adverse/not satisfactory work report of the concerned Principal Family Court Judge/ Family Court Judge.

10. Payment of Honorarium/fee to Counsellors: –

(1) The Honorarium or fee for each effective sitting shall be Rs.500.

(2) The Honorarium or fee shall be revisable by the High Court in consultation with the State Government.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

GOTTAPU PRATIBHA DEVI
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS & JUSTICE
LAW DEPARTMENT

To
The Commissioner of Printing, Stationery and Stores Purchase, Mutyalampadu, Vijayawada.- for publication of the Notification.
The Registrar (Judicial), High Court of Andhra Pradesh, Amaravati.
Copy to:
The General Administration(Ser.C) Department.
The Law Department.
The Finance (FMU-H&C) Department.
The OSD to Hon'ble Minister (Law & Justice).
The P.S. to Secretary, Law Department.
The Director of Translation, A.P., for translation of Telugu version.
SF/SCs.

//FORWARDED:BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE

APPLICATION FOR EMPANELMENT OF COUNSELLOR

To,
The Principal/Additional
Family Court Judge,
_____,
_____,
_____.

Affix Passport Size
Coloured photo

Family court ……..(Fill the name of District/Taluka places Family Courts where you want to be empanelled as Counsellor)

1. Applicant Name :

2. Name of the Father/Husband :

3. Date of Birth :

4. Education Qualification (Bachelor's Degree onwards) –
(also attach the required certification)

Name of Exam	Name of University	Year of passing	Percentage of Marks

5. Experience

(Give details of experience in the field of Social and Family Welfare, also attach the required certification as required under rule 4 of the Andhra Pradesh Family Court (empanelment of counsellors) Rules, 2025)

6. Permanent Address :

(Contd...P.2)

7. Address for Correspondence :

8. Mobile No. :

9. Email Address :

10. If enrolled as Advocate give enrolment No. :

11. If you have ever worked as Counsellor in Family Court : _____

(Provide details of Family Court & Year and attach a copy of order by which you were appointed)

12. (i) Whether any Criminal prosecution is pending against you ?

(ii) Have you ever been convicted by Criminal Court ?

(If yes, then give details)

13. Whether any case of your concerned is pending in the Family Court?

Date : (Name and Signature of the Applicant)

Declaration

I hereby declare that all information made in this application are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. In the event of my information being found false or incorrect or the ineligibility being detected, action can be taken against me.

Date : (Name and Signature of the Applicant)

Place :